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Tyre Nichols case revives calls for change in police culture

By Aaron Morrison, Claudia Lauer and Adrian Sainz
Associated Press

MEMPHIS, Tenn. (AP) — An unarmed Black man dies after a videotaped beating by police. The officers involved are fired. After a thorough review of the evidence, criminal charges are swiftly filed against the offending officers.

Investigation, accountability and charges. This is often the most Black citizens can hope for as the deaths continue. Nationwide, police have killed roughly three people per day consistently since 2020, according to academics and advocates for police reform who track such deaths.

Tyre Nichols' fatal encounter with police officers in

Memphis, Tennessee, recorded in video made public Friday night, is a glaring reminder that efforts to reform policing have failed to prevent more flashpoints in an intractable epidemic of brutality.

Nearly 32 years ago, Rodney King's savage beating by police in Los Angeles prompted heartfelt calls for change. They've been repeated in a ceaseless rhythm ever since, punctuated by the deaths of Amadou Diallo in New York, Oscar Grant in Oakland, California, Michael Brown in Ferguson, Missouri, and so many others.

George Floyd's murder in Minneapolis in 2020 was so agonizing to watch, it summoned a national reckoning that featured infederal

legislation proposed in his name and shows of solidarity by corporations and sports leagues. All fell short of the shift in law enforcement culture Black people in America have called for — a culture that promotes freedom from fear, trust in police and mutual respect. The five Black officers are now fired and charged with murder and other crimes in the Jan. 10 death of Nichols, a 29-year-old skateboarder, FedEx worker and father to a 4-year-old boy. From police brass and the district attorney's office to the White House, officials said Nichols' killing points to a need for bolder reforms that go beyond simply diversifying the ranks, changing use-of-force rules and encouraging citizens to file



Members of the Memphis Police Department work a crime scene in Memphis, Tenn., Tuesday, Jan. 24, 2023. Police video of the deadly beating of Tyre Nichols by officers in Memphis, Tenn. is hard to watch. The images are a glaring reminder of repeated failures of efforts to prevent such flashpoints of police brutality.
(AP Photo/Gerald Herbert)

complaints. President Joe Biden joined national civil rights leaders in similar calls to action. But Memphis, whose 628,000 residents celebrate barbecue and blues music and lament being the place where the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. was assassinated, has seen this before. The city took steps advocates called for in a De-escalation training is now required. Officers are told to limit uses of force, exhaust all alternatives before resorting to deadly force and report all uses of force. Tennessee also took action: State law now requires officers to intervene to stop abuse and report excessive force by their colleagues.

Showing unusual transparency for a police department, the MPD now publishes accountability reports that include the race of people subjected to use of force each year. They show Black men and women were overwhelmingly targeted for rougher treatment in 2019, 2020 and 2021. They were subject to nearly 86% of the recorded uses of guns, batons, pepper spray, physical beatings and other force in 2021, the total nearly doubling that year to 1,700 cases. Seven uses of force by Memphis police ended in death during these three years.

"I don't know how much more cumulative Black death our community

should have to pay to convince elected officials that the policing system isn't broken — it's working exactly as it was designed to, at the expense of Black life," said Ash-Lee Woodard Henderson, co-executive director of the Highlander Research and Education Center, a Tennessee-based civil rights leadership training school. The Nichols case — just one of the brutality cases to make national news this month — exposes an uncomfortable truth: More than two years since the deaths of Floyd, Breonna Taylor and Rayshard Brooks touched off protests, policing reforms have not significantly reduced such killings.

States approved nearly 300 police reform bills after Floyd's murder, creating civilian oversight of police, more anti-bias training, stricter use-of-force limits and alternatives to arrests in cases involving people with mental illnesses, according to a recent analysis by the Howard Center for Investigative Journalism at the University of Maryland.

Despite calls to "defund the police," an Associated Press review of police funding nationwide found only modest cuts, driven largely by shrinking revenue related to the coronavirus pandemic. Budgets increased and more officers were hired for some large departments, including New York City's. □







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Experts urge better opioid rescue drug access to save lives

By GEOFF MULVIHILL and SHARON JOHNSON

Associated Press

ALBANY, Ga. (AP) — Jessie Blanchard started small nearly five years ago, just trying to get enough of the rescue drug naloxone that reverses opioid overdoses to keep her daughter from dying from an overdose. She pleaded with colleagues at the college where she's an adjunct teacher in Albany, Georgia, to use their prescription benefits to get two doses every six months.

Now she loads her Jeep every week and heads out with a few other volunteers to bring the antidote — commonly known by its brand name Narcan — to hundreds of others in the town of 70,000.

At parking lots and intersections she also supplies clean needles, fentanyl test strips and a nonjudgmental sounding board — an effort now partly funded by a state government grant. At least nine times in December alone, Blanchard said, rescue drugs she provided were used to reverse overdoses.

"I've got story-after-story, story-after-story of people coming up to me," said Blanchard, a nurse whose organization is called 229 Safer Living Access, a reference to the Albany area code the group's work covers. "They say, 'Miss Jessie, they had to Narcan me the other day and I'd have died if it wasn't for you.'"

Naloxone, available as a nasal spray and in an injectable form, is a key tool in the battle against a nationwide overdose crisis linked to the deaths of more than 100,000 people annually in the U.S. State and federal policy changes have removed some major obstacles to getting it into the hands of police, firefighters, people who use drugs and their loved ones. But it's still often frustratingly inaccessible in the moments when overdoses happen.

Stephen Murray, an overdose survivor and former paramedic who researches overdoses at Boston Medical Center, is so com-



Jessie Blanchard's jeep bumper holds a sticker with the slogan "Yes We Narcan" on Monday, Jan. 23, 2023, in Albany, Ga.

mitted to naloxone access that he proclaims it on his personalized license plate: NARCAN.

"My vision for it is to be in every 24-hour gas station in the state, free or 25 cents a dose," he said. "It'll be between the Tylenol and the condoms. ... It has to be just as easy as buying heroin, basically."

There's more naloxone than ever thanks to federal and state policies, and groups like Blanchard's that distribute it in their communities. It's available free in old newspaper vending boxes in Michigan, which now hold naloxone kits, and in a vending machine in Philadelphia. One group, NEXT Distro, mails it nationwide for free. But Murray's vision is not close to being realized in most places.

An influx of money is on the way, intended to help deal with the national overdose crisis that killed 107,000 people in 2021 — the highest tally ever — most involving fentanyl and other powerful illicit synthetic opioids.

Drug makers, distribution companies and pharmacies have settled lawsuits with state and local governments, and the first funding totaling more than \$50 billion is going out. Most of it must be used to address the opioid epidemic, though exactly how will be

up to governments receiving the money. Some settlements are being delivered partly in doses of naloxone. In a 2021 report, public health experts convened by the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health listed expanding naloxone access as the first strategy for using settlement funds, noting that 40% of overdose deaths happen when someone else is present and possibly able to administer the life-saving drug.

As with other harm-reduction strategies, there's been pushback from those who believe making naloxone available enables drug use. But Jeff Breedlove, policy chief for the Georgia Council for Recovery, said he no longer sees that as much of an issue.

Instead, he said, funding and distribution programs remain spotty because they don't have enough support from government and private groups such as chambers of commerce. "Until they treat it like an epidemic," Breedlove said, "we will continue to have more and more funerals." Since 2016, the federal government has allowed and encouraged federal funds to be used to buy naloxone.

Officials in every state have given standing orders to pharmacies allowing peo-

ple to buy it, even without prescriptions.

That's a major factor for the massive increase in how much has been distributed through retail pharmacies. A report by the American Medical Association and IQVIA Institute for Human Data Science found there were just over 1,000 orders filled in 2012. By 2021, it was nearly 1.2 million.

But not all pharmacies carry it. And it comes at a cost: For those without insurance coverage, it can be around \$50 for two doses. The U.S. Food and Drug Administration is considering allowing some forms of naloxone to be sold over-the-counter without a prescription, a move that could lower the cost.

Randy Anderson, who is in recovery himself and works as a recovery consultant, said he's handed out some 100,000 doses of naloxone in Minnesota. He believes from his time using drugs that pharmacy availability doesn't do much to help people who need it most.

"There was no way I would spend \$10 for something to save my life when I needed that money to buy drugs," he said.

Aside from cost, there are other barriers to getting naloxone to drug users. In Alabama, for instance, a pharmacist, physician or public health nurse must be

involved in the distribution. But the state does have a program to mail the antidote to anyone who requests it.

Maya Doe-Simkins, a co-director of Remedy Alliance/For The People, which helps provide naloxone to groups working to prevent overdose deaths, said programs don't always prioritize getting the antidote to people who use drugs.

"If they're not matched up and directed where they should be, we're going to see more and more naloxone sitting on the shelves of church basements, expiring," she said.

Colin Dwyer, a former social entrepreneur-in-residence at the Stanford School of Business, founded the Overdose Crisis Response Fund to try to boost small distribution efforts across the country, including Blanchard's in Albany.

One of his grantees, Talia Rogers, distributes naloxone and other supplies in Kirksville, Missouri, through a one-person operation, Show Me Harm Reduction, which she initially funded with money she made working as a nanny.

She's now a consultant for the Missouri Institute of Mental Health and gets naloxone through the state's use of a federal grant.

"If they're not getting Narcan or naloxone through me, they're not getting it," Rogers said.

Ron Stewart, an emergency preparedness planner for Adair County, which includes Kirksville, said it provides naloxone only to first responders now, but he's hopeful a state program will soon make it available to the public, too.

In Albany, Blanchard gets naloxone through Georgia Opioid Prevention, which receives a state grant.

In 2022, she handed out more than 1,800 doses — far more than the public health district for Southwest Georgia, which gave out 280 doses to people who showed up at health department offices in an isolated corner of Albany and to community organizations. □

(AP Photo/Brynn Anderson)

DEA Mexico chief quietly ousted over ties to drug lawyers



This portion of a photo posted on Twitter by the DEA's New York division on Aug 30, 2019 shows Nicholas Palmeri.

By **JOSHUA GOODMAN**
and **JIM MUSTIAN**
Associated Press

MIAMI (AP) — The U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration quietly ousted its former top official in Mexico

last year over improper contact with lawyers for narcotraffickers, an embarrassing end to a brief tenure marked by deteriorating cooperation between the countries and a record

flow of cocaine, heroin and fentanyl across the border. Nicholas Palmeri's socializing and vacationing with Miami drug lawyers, detailed in confidential records viewed by The Associated Press, brought his ultimate downfall following just a 14-month stint as DEA's powerful regional director supervising dozens of agents across Mexico, Central America and Canada. But separate internal probes raised other red flags, including complaints of lax handling of the coronavirus pandemic that resulted in two sickened agents having to be airlifted out of the country. And another disclosed this past week found Palmeri approved use of drug-fighting funds for inappropriate purposes and sought to be reimbursed to pay for his own birthday party.

"The post of regional director in Mexico is the most important one in DEA's for-

eign operations, and when something like this happens, it's disruptive," said Mike Vigil, the DEA's former chief of international operations.

"It's even more critical because of the deteriorating situation with Mexico," added Phil Jordan, a former director of the DEA's El Paso Intelligence Center. "If we don't have a strong regional director or agent in charge there, it works against the agency's overall operations because everything transits through Mexico, whether it's coming from Colombia or the fentanyl that flows in through China. It cannot be taken lightly."

Palmeri's case adds to a growing litany of misconduct roiling the nation's premier narcotics law enforcement agency at a time when its sprawling foreign operations — spanning 69 countries — are under scrutiny from an ex-

ternal review ordered by DEA Administrator Anne Milgram.

That review came in response to the case of Jose Irizarry, a disgraced former agent now serving a 12-year federal prison sentence after confessing to laundering money for Colombian drug cartels and skimming millions from seizures to fund an international joyride of jet-setting, parties and prostitutes. Palmeri's is the second case in recent months to shine a light on the often-cozy interactions between DEA officials and Miami attorneys representing some of Latin America's biggest narcotraffickers and money launderers. Last year, federal prosecutors charged a DEA agent and a former supervisor with leaking confidential law enforcement information to two unnamed Miami defense attorneys in exchange for \$70,000 in cash. □

Should federal grants favor highway repair over expansion?

By **JEFF McMURRAY**
Associated Press

Arizona officials refer to a notoriously congested stretch of desert highway through tribal land as the Wild Horse Pass Corridor, a label that's less about horses than the bustling casino by the same name located just north of where the interstate constricts to four lanes.

With the Gila River Indian Community's backing, the state allocated or raised about \$600 million of a nearly \$1 billion plan that would widen the most bottleneck-inducing, 26-mile section of I-10 on the route between Phoenix and Tucson.

But its bid for federal grant money under the new infrastructure law to finish the job fell short, leaving some advocates for road construction accusing the Biden administration of devaluing those projects to focus on repairs and mass transit.

"Upset would be the right terminology," Casa Grande Mayor Craig McFarland

said of his reaction when he learned the project won't receive one of the law's first Mega Grants the U.S. Department of Transportation will announce this week. "We thought we had done a good job putting the proposal together. We thought we had checked all the boxes."

The historic federal investment in infrastructure has reenergized dormant transportation projects, but the debate over how to prioritize them has only intensified in the 14 months since President Joe Biden signed the measure.

The law follows decades of neglect in maintaining the nation's roads, bridges, water systems and airports. Research by Yale University economist Ray Fair estimates a sharp decline in U.S. infrastructure investment has caused a \$5.2 trillion shortfall. The entire law totals \$1 trillion, and it seeks to not only remedy that dangerous backlog of projects but also build out broadband internet nationwide and protect

against damage caused by climate change.

Some of the money, however, has gone to new highway construction — much of it from the nearly 30% increases Arizona and most other states are receiving over the next five years in the formula funding they can use to prioritize their own transportation needs.

For specific projects, many of the biggest awards available under the law are through various highly competitive grants. The Department of Transportation received around \$30 billion worth of applications for just the first \$1 billion in Mega Grants being awarded, spokesperson Dani Simons said.

Another \$1 billion will be available each of the next four years before the funding runs out. Still, the first batch has been closely watched for signals about the administration's preferences.

Jeff Davis, senior fellow at the Eno Center for Transportation, said it's already clear that the Biden ad-



Traffic moves along the notoriously congested stretch of I-10 through tribal land called the Wild Horse Pass Corridor, Wednesday, Jan. 25, 2023 in Chandler, Ariz.

ministration plans to direct a greater share of its discretionary transportation funding to "non-highway projects" than the Trump administration did. However, with so much more total infrastructure money to work with, Davis said, "a rising tide lifts all boats."

For example, one of the projects that the administration told Congress it had chosen for a Mega Grant will widen Interstate 10 — but in Mississippi, not Arizona. Davis said the department likely preferred the

Mississippi project due to its significantly lower price tag.

This year's Mega Grants combine three different award types into a single application, one of which caters specifically to rural and impoverished communities.

Some of the winning grants are for bridges, while others are for mass transit — including improvements to Chicago's commuter train system and concrete casing for a rail tunnel in Midtown Manhattan. □

Puerto Rico's southern region fights for cleaner air, water

By DÁNICA COTO

Associated Press

SALINAS, Puerto Rico (AP)

— Shuttered windows are a permanent fixture in Salinas, an industrial town on Puerto Rico's southeast coast that is considered one of the U.S. territory's most contaminated regions.

For years, toxic ash and noxious chemicals from coal-fired and thermoelectric power plants have enveloped this community, and residents have complained about health problems ranging from cancer to Alzheimer's.

Then last year, a bombshell: Officials with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency traveled to Salinas to announce that the town also has one of the highest concentrations of ethylene oxide, a cancer-causing gas, in a U.S. jurisdiction.

Puerto Rico ranks 22nd out of 56 U.S. states and territories based on total managed waste released per square mile, at 4.2 million pounds. Six of the top 10 municipalities in that category are in Puerto Rico's southern region, with Salinas ranked sixth, according to data obtained from the EPA's Toxics Release Inventory.



A resident of Salinas, considered one of the most contaminated towns in Puerto Rico, waits for a meeting with U.S. Environmental Protection Agency officials to start, Wednesday, Jan. 25, 2023 in Salinas, Puerto Rico.

(AP Photo/Danica Coto).

Salinas also has one of the highest incidence rates of cancer in Puerto Rico, with 140 cases reported in 2019, the newest figures available from the island's Central Registry of Cancer. Salinas has a higher rate than the neighboring town of Guayama, where cases of cancer and other diseases have increased since the coal-fired power plant began operating there in 2002, said Dr. Gerson Jiménez, director of the Menonite Hospital who has testified in public hearings and called for the closure of the plant.

The level of contamina-

tion has prompted the EPA for the first time to test air and groundwater in Puerto Rico's southeast region, with Administrator Michael Regan saying that low-income communities and communities of color have suffered unjustly for decades.

Salinas is a town of nearly 26,000 people — of which 28% identify as Black — with a median household income of \$18,000 a year. More than half of its population is poor, according to the U.S. Census Bureau.

The town is nestled between the coal-burning power plant, two of the is-

land's largest thermoelectric plants and other industries, including a company that produces thermoset composites, a material used in major appliances like refrigerators. That company, IDI Caribe Inc., is the facility that releases the most emissions in Salinas, according to the EPA.

Overall, styrene and ethylene oxide, a carcinogenic gas, are the top two chemicals released into the air and water in Salinas, officials say. Salinas and Guayama also have sulfur dioxide levels that exceed new standards.

Meanwhile, a study by Puerto Rico's Chemistry Association published in late 2021 found the presence of heavy metals linked to coal in potable water in Salinas. The amounts found did not exceed regulatory limits.

Scientists doing that study were forced to collect samples from individual homes because the government's water and sewer company at the time blocked access to aquifers that residents in the southeast rely on, environmental activist Víctor Alvarado said. Since then, legislators have approved a law that requires the company to provide access for testing. □

UK leader fires party chairman over tax bill allegations

By Mike Fuller and Jill Lawless

Associated Press

LONDON (AP)

— British Prime Minister Rishi Sunak fired the chairman of the governing Conservative Party on Sunday for a "serious breach" of ethics rules in failing to come clean about a tax dispute.

Sunak had faced days of pressure to sack Nadhim Zahawi amid allegations he settled a multimillion-dollar unpaid tax bill while he was in charge of the country's Treasury.

The prime minister acted after a standards probe found Zahawi had breached the ministerial code of conduct. It said he had failed to disclose details of his dispute with tax authorities and the fact that he had paid a penalty.

In a letter to Zahawi, Sunak said he had been forced to act to keep his promise that his government "would have integrity, professionalism and accountability at every level."

In his response to Sunak, Zahawi pledged to support the prime minister as a backbench lawmaker and made no reference to the ethics inquiry. He attacked the media — which first revealed his whopping tax bill, reported at almost 5 million pounds (\$6.2 million) — and claimed some reporting did not reflect "legitimate scrutiny of public officials."

Zahawi headed the U.K. Treasury from July to September 2022 in the final months of Prime Minister Boris Johnson's tenure, and was appointed Conserva-



Conservative Party chairman Nadhim Zahawi leaves the Conservative Party head office in Westminster, central London, Tuesday, Jan. 24, 2023.

tive Party chairman when Sunak took office in October.

The investigation into Zahawi by HMRC, the U.K.'s tax office, centered around the sale of some 27 million pounds (\$33.4 million)

(AP Photo/Alastair Grant, File)

in shares in YouGov, an opinion polling firm he co-founded. The probe began in April 2021, but Zahawi did not declare it when he was appointed Chancellor of the Exchequer more than a year later. □

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China announces resumption of visas for Japanese

By MARI YAMAGUCHI

Associated Press

TOKYO (AP) — China announced it was resuming issuing visas for Japanese travelers beginning Sunday, ending its nearly three-week suspension in an apparent protest of Tokyo's tougher COVID-19 entry requirements for tourists from China.

The decision was announced in a statement posted on the Chinese Embassy's website.

China stopped issuing new visas in Japan on Jan. 10 in apparent retaliation for Tokyo's requirement of additional tests for Chinese tourists in late December, ahead of Lunar New Year holidays. Japan cited soaring infections in China after it abruptly eased coronavirus restrictions as well as scarce COVID-19 data from Beijing.

Japan reopened its bor-



The Chinese Embassy is pictured in Tokyo on Jan. 11, 2023.

(Kazushi Kurihara/Kyodo News via AP, File)

ders for individual tourists in October, allowing travelers with proof of vaccination instead of testing at airports unless they show symptoms.

But on Dec. 30, Japan required all travelers from China to show pre-departure negative tests and take an additional test upon arrival.

China also stopped issuing visas to South Koreans after South Korea in early January did the same for short-term travelers from China.

Last Friday, South Korea said it would keep the measure in place through the end of February over concerns that the spread of COVID-19 in China may worsen following Lunar New Year travel.

Health authorities in China have said infections have peaked but there are concerns abroad that Beijing was not sharing enough data. The latest wave of infections in Japan appears to be subsiding in recent weeks, with confirmed daily cases falling to about one-fifth of the peak in early January.

Japan's government last week announced plans to downgrade COVID-19 to an equivalent of seasonal influenza in May, a move that would further relax mask wearing and other preventive measures as the country seeks to return to normalcy. □

Erdogan might approve Finland's NATO bid, 'shock' Sweden



Turkey's President Recep Tayyip Erdogan waves to the crowd during a welcome ceremony in Sarajevo, Bosnia, on Sept. 6, 2022.

(AP Photo/Armin Durgut, File)

By ZEYNEP BILGINSOY

Associated Press

ISTANBUL (AP) — Turkey's president has suggested his country might approve Finland's application for NATO membership before taking any action on Sweden's, while the Turkish government issued a travel warning for European countries due to anti-Turkish demonstrations and what it described as Islamophobia. The travel warning published late Saturday followed demonstrations last weekend outside the Turk-

ish Embassy in Sweden, where an anti-Islam activist burned the Quran and pro-Kurdish groups protested against Turkey. The events stiffened Turkey's refusal so far to ratify Sweden's NATO bid.

Sweden and Finland applied jointly to become members of the military alliance, dropping their long-standing military nonalignment following Russia's war on Ukraine. In a prerecorded video of an event released Sunday, President Recep Tayyip Erdogan in-

dicated that Turkey might sign off on only Finland.

"If needed, we could give a different message about Finland. Sweden will be shocked when we give the different message about Finland," Erdogan said to a group of young people in Bilecik province.

Turkey has accused the government in Stockholm of being too lenient toward groups it deems as terror organizations or existential threats, including Kurdish groups. NATO requires unanimous approval of its existing members to add new ones, but Erdogan's government has said it would only agree to admit Sweden if the country met its conditions.

In its travel warning to citizens, the Turkish foreign ministry cited an increase in anti-Turkish protests by "groups with links to terror groups," a reference to the Kurdistan Workers' Party, or PKK, which has waged a decades-long insurgency against Turkey. Along with Turkey, the European Union and United States also designate the PKK as a terror group.

Pro-Kurdish groups have waved the flags of the PKK and its affiliates during protests in Sweden organized as a response to Sweden and Finland's promise to prevent the PKK's activities in their countries in order to gain Turkey's approval for their NATO memberships.

Erdogan said he told the Swedish prime minister, "You will extradite these terrorists if you really want to enter NATO.

If you don't extradite these terrorists, then sorry." He said Turkey had provided a list of 120 people it wants extradited from Sweden, a demand that was part of a memorandum signed in June that averted Turkey's veto of the Nordic nations' joint application.

Turkey is demanding the extradition of alleged PKK militants as well as some followers of Fethullah Gulen, the Muslim cleric accused of the 2016 attempted coup. In December, the Swedish Supreme Court said the country cannot extradite Bulent Kenes, the former editor-in-chief of a newspaper linked to Gulen, angering Turkey.

Turkey also strongly condemned far-right activist Rasmus Paludan's burning of the Quran last weekend in Stockholm, which he repeated in Copenhagen Friday. Ankara summoned the Dutch ambassador after another far-right activist tore pages of the Quran in the Hague.

Following last week's protests, Erdogan warned Sweden not to expect support for its membership bid for the military alliance. Turkey also indefinitely postponed a key meeting in Brussels that would have discussed Sweden and Finland's NATO membership. The Turkish foreign ministry urged its citizens to take precautions and stay away from demonstration areas in Europe. It also said they should go to local authorities if they face xenophobic or racist attacks.

In a separate advisory, the ministry also urged Turkish citizens to be vigilant in the United States in case of protests in response to the fatal beating by Memphis, Tennessee, police of Tyre Nichols, an unarmed Black man. □



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Aruba welcomes our Royal Family

ORANJESTAD – Two weeks of excitement are coming to a climax today with the arrival of the royal family of the Kingdom of the Netherlands, King Willem-Alexander, Queen Maxima, and crown princess Amalia. Excitement for the royal family's tour of the Caribbean is particularly high as it marks the first time the Caribbean part of the kingdom is meeting the crown princess Amalia since she turned 18 on the 7th of December 2022.

The historical moment begins at 10:30 with the arrival of the royal family at the Reina Beatrix airport. They will be touring the island on a jam-packed schedule full of activities. It is understood that the royal family personally requested that the visit allowed them to experience the island for themselves, and this is reflected in the hands-on aspect of the visit.

People are invited to meet the royal family at different points during the visit, and a large turn-out is expected to welcome them.

From the moment of their arrival, the King, Queen and Crown Princess will be heading to the Wilhelmina Park for some activities. Primary schools are invited to attend and there will be a military show at the park, after which they will walk to the ceremonial house of the Governor for a short meeting. Leaving the Governor, the royal family will walk to the Parliament for a meeting with local legislators, and then continue on to the Bestuurskantoor – the seat of government – for a meeting with the Council of Ministers of Aruba.

On the way there will be different presentations of art, singing and dance for the royal family to experience the culture of Aruba. Residents and visitors alike are invited to be present along the route to give King Willem-Alexander, Queen Maxima and Princess Amalia a very warm welcome.

Also today, in the afternoon, there is an activity in San Nicolas, where the royal family will be visiting Filomena College and will



see an exhibition of Boy Ecury, Aruba's WWII hero. Afterwards they will tour the streets of San Nicolas to admire some of the beautiful murals. Once again, our visitors are invited to be present and greet the royal family. After this there is a special activity prepared for the royal family at Nicolaas Store.

Tomorrow, 31st of January, there will be a few smaller activities, and as always, the public is welcome to be present. In the morning, Princess Amalia will visit Royal Aruba Aloe, and afterwards the royal family will visit the University Aruba for a debate with the students.

After this, the King and Princess will head to the Frans Figaroa stadium while the Queen will visit Qredits, a program offering financing and guidance for entrepreneurs.

In the afternoon there will be a beautiful presentation of the Bon Bini Festival and different activities on the Plaza Padu in the City Cen-

ter dedicated to the royal family. The night will end at Fort Zoutman with the royal family enjoying the Bon Bini Festival.

On Wednesday there are no scheduled activities as Aruba will bid the royal family farewell and they will depart to continue their Caribbean tour in Curaçao.

For our visitors, do not miss this opportunity to meet the Royal Family of the Netherlands! The best spots to meet the royal family will be at the Wilhelmina Park, in San Nicolas during their walk, and at Plaza Padu and Fort Zoutman.

King Willem-Alexander and Queen Maxima last visited Aruba in May 2015, for the SailAruba event. The SailAruba event was part of the celebrations commemorating 200 years of the Kingdom of the Netherlands and 350 years of the Marine Corps, and took place from 1st until the 3rd of May.

About the Kingdom of the

Netherlands

The kingdom of the Netherlands consists of four countries: the islands of Aruba, Sint Maarten and Curaçao, and the Netherlands consisting of the European portion and the Caribbean portion (which consists of Bonaire, Saba and Sint Eustatius).

According to the website of the Dutch government, the King and the ministers together make up the Government of the Netherlands. The ministers and state secretaries are responsible for the day-to-day business of government. On 10 January 2022 the fourth government led by Mark Rutte took office.

The Netherlands is a constitutional monarchy. This means that the head of state is a King or Queen whose powers are laid down in the Constitution. In the Netherlands the powers of the monarch are extremely limited. Under the Constitution, the ministers, and not the monarch, are responsible for what the Government does. □



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Congratulations Margaret and Adam!

Our lovely visitors will be tying the knot! It is a time for celebration and happiness for the lovely couple here on Aruba, Margaret's now fiancée Adam Towne has proposed to Maggie on our beautiful island, their story follows below.

Margaret shared the wonderful news with us by sending us the following message;

My name is Maggie Donovan. I have been coming to Aruba since I was 2 months old in January 1992. My grandfather purchased a time share at Casa Del Mar in the 1980s, and since his passing my Mother and I have carried on the tradition of coming every January. My boyfriend Adam started joining me in our annual trip in January 2020. Despite being a healthcare worker in the pandemic, we haven't missed a year. This past week, he surprised me, and proposed to me on Palm beach! My fiancé's name is Adam Towne. We are from New Hampshire, and we are staying at Casa Del Mar. We have



Can I have a ..., please?



ORANJESTAD — Want to taste something different for a change?? How about a different breakfast from what you are used to at your hotel. Hop in your car, drive around and anywhere around the island you will come across a local snack shop.

Here you will find all types of snacks loved by the locals. Try a pastechi, a Caribbean pastry filled with cheese or meat and fried up deliciously. Or perhaps you might want to try a croquette, a crusty little meat ball. A dedito is also a good option, it's a stick made out of cheese or hotdog. If you want to try something more familiar go for a home-made hamburger or a ham and cheese toast, but with a local touch. All these snacks are ridiculously addictive. Freshen up with a delicious fruit shake (batido) made out of watermelon, strawberry, banana, papaya or just mix any fruit together. What makes these little snack shops more attractive is the warmth of its people and with the smile you are being served. □

spent the past week celebrating our engagements doing so many wonderful things in Aruba including

Pelican Sunset Cruise, visiting Flamingo island, and enjoying a 6 course romantic dinner at Elements res-

taurant on Eagle beach." Congratulations to the wonderful couple from the Aruba Today Team! □

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Fruit Loose & Veggie Boost

Fresh fruits make a tropical holiday's picture complete. Whether you see the mango's hanging in the trees or the fresh fruit cocktail on the side table of your pool bed, the link is there: you are in the tropics. Aruba grows her own fruits and veggies and there are some pretty out-of-space local species you may never had heard of, but really healthy and delicious.

Mispel

This is a fruit with a character (5-10 cm/2-4 inches). It does not ripe until it is picked or falls off the tree. Mispel is hard with a sandpaper like texture when immature, soft and juicy when ripe. It's technically a berry, but contains a skin similar to that of a kiwi. It's grainy and sweet, with a light, musky flavor. The sap or gum from the tree is also a source of 'chicle' the original ingredient used to make chewing gum. Rich in tannins, antioxidants shown to contain anti-inflammatory compounds, and vitamin C, essential for healthy immune function. Season: year-round.



Kenepa

Ovoid green fruit that grows in bunches on trees up to 30m high. The fruit is related to the lychee and have tight, thin but rigid skins. Inside the skin is the tart, tangy, or sweet pulp of the fruit covering a large seed. The pulp is usually cream or orange colored. Kenepa strengthens the immune system, and prevents the reproduction of bacteria and viruses in the body. This fruit is highly recommended to treat lung infections and urinary tract infections. It also helps to cure insomnia and rejuvenates the nervous system. Season: the fruit typically ripen during the summer.



Druif

There is no chance you did not bump into one of the sea grape trees while spending your vacation on Aruba. The sea grape plant is often used in ocean-side landscaping in sandy soil right on the beach and it produces clusters of fruit that resemble grapes. Are sea grapes edible? Yes, they are. Animals enjoy sea grapes and humans can eat them as well, and they are used to make jam. They contain very low calories and sugar, enabling good bacterium to digest food and excrete waste quickly which is effective in preventing constipation. Season: Sep-Oct.

riety of uses and applications, both for medicinal and culinary purposes. It is a medium-sized bushy tree with evergreen leaves and fruit that develops in pods characterized by long, brown shells. Inside is a sticky, fleshy, juicy pulp, which is the Tamarind fruit. Both sweet and sour in taste, the fruit contains a significant level of vitamin C, as well as vitamin E, B vitamins, calcium, iron, phosphorous, potassium, manganese, and dietary fiber. There are also a number of organic compounds that make tamarind a powerful antioxidant and anti-inflammatory agent. Season: March. □



Shimaruku

Maybe Aruba's most popular wild fruit tree. You may have noticed cars at the side of the road and people picking those red berries. Well, that's Shimaruku. The local habit to stop for these delicious fruits goes from generation to generation. Its fruit's degree of sour depends on the amount of rain it gets. Red Shimarukus tend to taste better than orange. The fruit has super power: a true vitamin bomb. Adults only need to eat 3-4 of these berries to meet their daily recommended amount of Vitamin C. Season: Rainy months (Oct-Jan).

Tamarind

A delicious, sweet fruit that has a wide va-





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Members of AHATA enjoyed presentation by renowned speaker Danny Bader During general assembly



ORANJESTAD – AHATA had its annual general assembly at the Alhambra Ballroom with a special speaker to benefit its members. In each general assembly, CEO and President of AHATA, Tisa LaSorte informs members of the current state of affairs and activities of the association.

This year, AHATA has different workshops planned

for members, as well as awareness campaigns to create more knowledge in the community regarding the tourism industry. A goal for 2023 is to inspire more people to realize a career in Aruba's main industry.

Regularly, AHATA's general assembly includes a speaker to give a presentation on different topics. This time, AHATA invited Mr. Danny

Bader, a renowned speaker from the United States to do his unique presentation on the topic of leadership to the members present. Danny Bader's life was transformed after he experienced death and came back to life. Now he dedicates his time to educate people to invest in themselves, increase focus and develop vision. His main message was for a leader to illuminate themselves and lead with four elements spelling LOVE: Loyalty, Optimism, Vision and Empathy.

With this presentation, AHATA wants to support the personal development of the leaders of different businesses and to help them navigate the business expectation that is constantly changing, as well as to reevaluate effective



management of personnel.

Membership of AHATA consists of 145 varied companies, and the association represents 11,568 em-

ployees in the workforce of Aruba. AHATA continuously supports the progress of Aruba's tourism industry, economy and general wellbeing. □

Today: Special organ concert for children and adults by Gabriel Dessauer

ORANJESTAD – Today at 4pm there is a special concert at the Protestant Church in the city center in Oranjestad: An hour of Baroque and Romantic music presented by the famous organist and composer, Gabriel Dessauer on the famous Flentrop organ.

Gabriel Dessauer, organist and director

Gabriel Dessauer (1955) is an organist, singer and academic. He was responsible for the sacred music in St. Bonifacius, a church in Wiesbaden between 1981 and 2021. He also directed the choir of St. Bonifacius until 2018. Gabriel is a world renowned organ recitalist. He was organ professor at the faculty of the conservatorium of music of Magnucia. In 1985, he founded the gold of the German-English project, Reger-Choir. He participated in international conferences and congresses, especially regarding the music of composer Max Reger.



Dessauer gave recitals in Europe and the United States at the National Cathedral in Washington and at St. Patrick's Cathedral in New York. He interpreted the Kotzchmar organ at the Merrill Auditorium in

Portland, Maine and at the cathedral Our Lady of the Angels in Los Angeles.

In 2004, he gave a lecture during the National Convention of the American Guild of Organists in Los

Angeles on the choir music of Max Reger. In 2005, Dessauer played at the Spreckels Organ Pavilion in San Diego. In 2010, he gave a recital at St. Ignatius Loyola in New York.

Since 1992, Dessauer conducted events part of the Rheingau Music Festival, called the organ tour, visiting historical organs in the region, from Rheingau to the cathedrals in Worms, Speyer, Wurzburg and Fulda.

In 2014, Dessauer toured in the United States, presenting concerts in Washington National Cathedral, in St. Mary's Cathedral in San Francisco, California, and at the organ in Salt Lake Tabernacle in Salt Lake City.

In November 2015, Dessauer was the organist for a singing event organized by the Dioceses of Limburg in St. Bonifatius. A choir consisting of 150 volunteers studied Gabriel Faure's Requiem and presented their



part during the Wiesbadener Bachwochen festival.

The Protestant Church of Aruba is honored to have Gabriel Dessauer give a beautiful concert in Oranjestad, Aruba.

Entrance for this concert is completely free. The church is an open place for prayer and worship, specially a place of worship for visitors, tourists, and citizens of Aruba.

The church is located on Whilhelminastraat 1, Oranjestad. □

CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

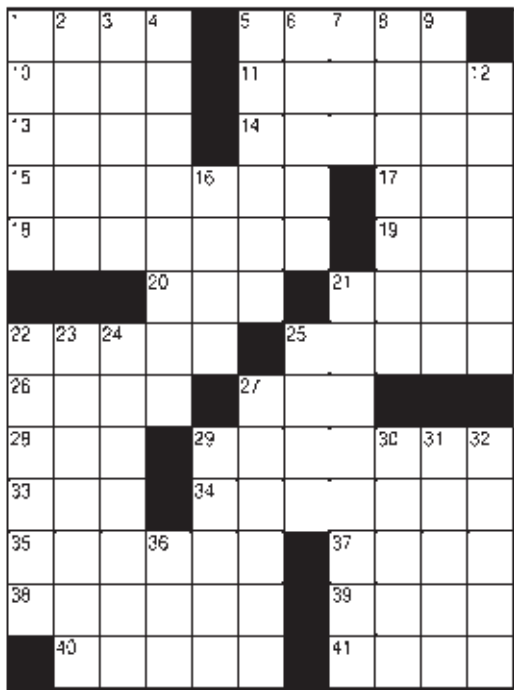
- ACROSS**
- 38 Shirt
 - 1 Drove too fast
 - 5 Party givers
 - 10 Make roads
 - 11 Fly high
 - 13 Falco of TV
 - 14 Remote, informally
 - 15 Candy bar cover
 - 17 Memo- rable time
 - 18 Kind of overload
 - 19 Treat rudely, in slang
 - 20 Print units
 - 21 Portion (out)
 - 22 Satchel part
 - 25 Printer need
 - 26 Metal sources
 - 27 Cut, as hay
 - 28 Buddy
 - 29 Broadcast ender
 - 33 Yale rooter
 - 34 Kit Carson, for one
 - 35 Drake or Dre
 - 37 Mother of Castor and Pollux

DOWN

- 1 Gushes forth
- 2 San Diego player
- 3 French spa city
- 4 Homes for biolumi- nescent fish
- 5 Tormen- tors of new recruits
- 6 Pistil part
- 7 Small drink
- 8 Attached, in a way
- 9 Like surgical tools
- 12 Pencil part
- 16 Pageantry
- 21 De- empha- size
- 22 Suzanne of "Three's Company"
- 23 Refrain bit
- 24 Chef's secrets
- 25 Forum attire
- 27 Helen of "The Queen"
- 29 Carell of movies
- 30 Met music
- 31 Disgusted
- 32 College houses
- 36 Vitality



Saturday's answer



AXYDLBAXR
IS LONGFELLOW

One letter stands for another. In this sample, A is used for the three I's, X for the two O's, etc. Single letters, apostrophes, the length and formation of the words are all hints. Each day the code letters are different.

1-30

CRYPTOQUOTE

Q E G ' T D K C M A D F , Q E G L

W M R W J D N N . M C H C U D F M .

A M S D H Q K C X W D L P D K E L D H D .

— "L D X G L J E K X W D U D F M"

Saturday's Cryptoquote: IT'S BETTER TO SEE SOMETHING ONCE THAN TO HEAR ABOUT IT A THOUSAND TIMES. — ASIAN PROVERB

Elon Musk's mysterious ways on display in Tesla tweet trial

By MICHAEL LIEDTKE

Associated Press

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) —

Elon Musk's enigmatic personality and unconventional tactics are emerging as key exhibits in a trial revolving around one of his most polarizing pursuits — tweeting.

The trial, centered on a pair of tweets announcing Musk had obtained the money to take Tesla private in 2018, reeled the 51-year-old billionaire into a federal courtroom in San Francisco for three days of testimony that opened a peephole into his often inscrutable mind.

Musk, who now owns the Twitter service that he deploys as his megaphone, was often a study in contrasts during his roughly eight hours on the stand. The CEO of the electric carmaker is facing a class-action lawsuit filed on behalf of Tesla shareholders after Musk tweeted about a company buyout that didn't happen.

Through both his testimony and the evidence submitted around it, Musk came across as impetuous, brash, combative and contemptuous of anyone who questioned his motives as a game-changing entrepreneur who has inspired comparisons to Apple's late co-founder, Steve Jobs.

At other times, Musk sounded like the savvy visionary that his supporters hail him to be — an intrepid rebel who by his own estimates has raised more than \$100 billion from investors. They have been richly rewarded from his leadership of pioneering companies that include PayPal in digital payments, Tesla in electric vehicles and SpaceX in



Elon Musk leave the Phillip Burton Federal Building and United States Court House in San Francisco, Tuesday, Jan. 24, 2023..

(AP Photo/ Benjamin Fanjoy)

rocket ships.

"It is relatively easy for me to get investment support because my track record is extremely good," Musk wryly observed.

But his confidence in his ability to get the money he wants to pursue his plans is one reason he found himself in court. The three-week trial is set to resume Tuesday and head for jury deliberations by Friday.

PLANTING THE SEEDS

Evidence and testimony have shown Musk had started to mull taking Tesla private in 2017 so he wouldn't have to hassle with the headaches and distractions that accompany running a publicly traded company.

After a July 31, 2018, meeting with a top representative from Saudi Arabia's sovereign wealth fund, Musk sent a letter to Tesla's board outlining why he wanted to take the automaker private at a price of \$420 per share — about 20% above its stock price at the time.

Musk was serious enough that he had already discussed the pros and cons with Michael Dell, who had gone through the public-

to-private transition in 2013 when he led a \$25 billion buyout of the personal computer company bearing his name, according to trial evidence.

THE TROUBLESOME TWEETS

The crux of the case hinges on an Aug. 7, 2018, tweet in which Musk declared "funding secured" to take Tesla private. Musk abruptly posted the tweet minutes before boarding his private jet after being alerted that the Financial Times was about to publish a story that Saudi Arabia's Public Investment Fund had spent about \$2 billion buying a 5% stake in Tesla to diversify its interests beyond oil, according to his testimony.

Amid widespread confusion about whether Musk's Twitter account had been hacked or he was joking, Musk followed up a few hours later with another tweet suggesting a deal was imminent.

Musk defended the initial tweet as a well-intentioned move to ensure all Tesla investors knew the automaker might be on its way to ending its then-eight-year run as a publicly held company.

"I had no ill motive," Musk testified. "My intent was to do the right thing for all shareholders."

Guhan Subramanian, a Harvard University business and law professor hired as an expert for shareholder lawyers, derided Musk's method for announcing a potential buyout as an "extreme outlier" fraught with potential conflicts. □

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Biden, McCarthy to discuss debt limit in talks on Wednesday

By HOPE YEN and
ZEKE MILLER

Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) —

House Speaker Kevin McCarthy said Sunday he is looking forward to discussing with President Joe Biden a "reasonable and responsible way that we can lift the debt ceiling" when the two meet Wednesday for their first sit-down at the White House since McCarthy was elected to the post. McCarthy, R-Calif., said he wants to address spending cuts along with raising the debt limit, even though the White House has ruled out linking those two issues together as the government tries to avoid a potentially devastating financial default.

Asked whether he would make a guarantee, McCarthy said, "There will not be a default," though he suggested that declaration depended on the willingness of Biden and Democrats to negotiate.

The White House on Sunday confirmed Wednesday's meeting on "a range of issues." It said Biden looked forward to "strengthening his working relationship" with McCarthy and to asking about the speaker's plan on spending, noting that the first House bill passed by Republicans this year to slash IRS funding would ultimately increase the deficit.

McCarthy was elected speaker on a historic post-



President Joe Biden, right, speaks at the top of a meeting with congressional leaders to discuss legislative priorities for the rest of the year, Nov. 29, 2022, in the Roosevelt Room of the White House in Washington.

midnight 15th ballot early on Jan. 7, overcoming holdouts from his own ranks and tensions that have tested the new GOP majority ability to govern.

Word of the long-awaited White House meeting comes at a time of divided government in Washington with a debt ceiling crisis brewing and House Republicans ready for confrontation.

McCarthy has been eager to push Biden to the negotiating table, hoping to make good on the promises the GOP leader made to holdouts during his campaign to become speaker to pare federal spending back to 2022 budget levels, which would be a sizable 8% budget cut.

The White House has made clear that Biden is not willing to entertain policy concessions in exchange for

(AP Photo/Andrew Harnik, File)

lifting the debt limit, which is the nation's borrowing authority. The United States bumped up against that

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limit earlier this month, and the Treasury Department has deployed

On Sunday, when McCarthy was asked if he would push cuts to those programs, he said, "Let's take those off the table." Pressed on possible defense cuts that he may have promised to House conservatives, McCarthy responded: "I want to eliminate waste wherever it is. ... I want to look at every single department." □



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Shakira's Super Bowl outfits, lyrics coming to Grammy Museum

By JONATHAN LANDRUM Jr.
Associated Press

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Shakira's two outfits worn during a Super Bowl halftime performance, her handwritten lyrics and her heavily crystalized electric guitar are among the items that will be on display for a museum exhibit in Los Angeles.

The Grammy Museum announced Thursday that the multi-Grammy winner will have her first exhibit opening on March 4. The exhibit called "Shakira, Shakira: The Grammy Museum Experience" will feature 40 artifacts from her personal archive in the museum's permanent Latin music gallery.

The museum exhibit will explore Shakira's musical evolution, from her origin as a Latin performer in Colombia to reaching global superstardom as a multi-genre performer, who spans several genres



This combination of photos shows Shakira performing during the halftime show at the NFL Super Bowl 54 football game between the San Francisco 49ers and Kansas City Chiefs, on Feb. 2, 2020, in Miami Gardens, Fla.

(AP Photo)

including bachata, rock, Bhangra and reggaetón. "It's an honor to have the

journey of my career displayed at the Grammy museum," Shakira said in a

statement. "These pieces are a testament to so many indelible moments that I

cherish, and I'm so happy to be able to relive these memories with those who have and continue to support me as an artist."

Shakira's electric guitar that's covered in 70,000 black crystals and acoustic guitar used for songwriting will be displayed. Other items include her outfits from her El Dorado tour in 2018 and the leaf-covered bikini she wore on the "Oral Fixation, Vol. 2" album in 2005.

"Shakira is the rare superstar who has discovered a way to keep evolving as an artist while growing her expansive audience along with her," said Jasen Emmons, the chief curator and vice president of curatorial affairs at the Grammy Museum. "She's a serious student of music, and the Grammy Museum is excited to offer a dynamic exhibit that reflects her intelligence and artistry." □

'24,' 'Runaways' actor Annie Wersching has died at 45

By LINDSEY BAHR
Associated Press

(AP) - Actor Annie Wersching, best known for playing FBI agent Renee Walker in the series "24" and providing the voice for Tess in the video game "The Last of Us," has died. She was 45.

Wersching passed away Sunday morning in Los Angeles following a battle with cancer, her publicist told The Associated Press. The type of cancer was not specified.

Neil Druckmann, who created "The Last of Us," wrote on Twitter that "We just lost a beautiful artist and human being. My heart is

shattered. Thoughts are with her loved ones."

Actor Abigail Spencer, who appeared with Wersching on the sci-fi series "Timeless," tweeted, "We love you Annie Wersching. You will be deeply missed."

Born and raised in St. Louis, Missouri, Wersching appeared on dozens of television shows over the course of her two-decade career.

Her first credit was in "Star Trek: Enterprise," and she would go on to have recurring roles in the seventh and eighth seasons of "24," "Bosch," "The Vampire Diaries," Marvel's "Runaways," "The Rook-



ie" and, most recently, the second season of "Star Trek: Picard" as the Borg Queen.

She also provided the voice and motion capture performance for Tess for the popular video game "The Last of Us."

Wersching was diagnosed with cancer in 2020, according to Deadline, and continued working. She's survived by her husband, actor Stephen Full, and three sons. A GoFundMe page was set up Sunday to support the family. □

Novak Djokovic claims 10th Australian Open title, 22nd Slam

By Howard Fendrich

Associated Press

MELBOURNE, Australia

(AP) — Novak Djokovic climbed into the Rod Laver Arena stands to celebrate his 10th Australian Open championship and record-tying 22nd Grand Slam title Sunday and, after jumping and pumping his fists with his team, he collapsed onto his back, crying.

When he returned to the playing surface, Djokovic sat on his sideline bench, buried his face in a white towel and sobbed some more.

This trip to Australia was far more successful than that of a year ago — when he was deported because he was not vaccinated against COVID-19 — although difficult in its own ways: a bad hamstring; some off-court tumult involving his father. Yet Djokovic accomplished all he could have possibly wanted in his return: He resumed his winning ways at Melbourne Park and made it back to the top of tennis, declaring: "This probably is the, I would say, biggest victory of my life."

Only briefly challenged in the final, Djokovic was simply better at the most crucial moments and beat Stefanos Tsitsipas 6-3, 7-6 (4), 7-6 (5). As a bonus, Djokovic will vault from No. 5 to No. 1 in the ATP rankings, a spot he already has held for more weeks than any other man.

"This has been one of the most challenging tournaments I've ever played in my life, considering the circumstances. Not playing last year; coming back this year," Djokovic said, wearing a zip-up white jacket with a "22" on his chest. "And I want to thank all the people that made me feel welcome, made me feel comfortable, to be in Melbourne, to be in Australia." there in the Open era, which dates to 1968. He adds trophy No. 10 to the seven from Wimbledon, three from the U.S. Open — where he also was absent last year because of no coronavirus shots — and two from the French Open,

to match rival Rafael Nadal for the most by a man.

Only two women — Margaret Court, with 24, and Serena Williams, with 23 — are ahead of him. This was also the 93rd ATP tour-level title for Djokovic, breaking a tie with Nadal for the fourth-most. "I would like to thank you for pushing our sport so far," Tsitsipas told Djokovic. "He is the greatest," Tsitsipas said, "that has ever held a tennis racket."

Djokovic was participating in his 33rd major final, Tsitsipas in his second — and the 24-year-old from Greece also lost the other, at the 2021 French Open, to Djokovic.

On a cool evening under a cloud-filled sky, and with a soundtrack of chants from supporters of both men

prompting repeated pleas for quiet from the chair umpire, Djokovic was superior throughout, especially so in the two tiebreakers.

"Very emotional for us. Very emotional for him," said Djokovic's coach, Goran Ivanisevic. "It's a great achievement. It was a really tough three weeks for him. He managed to overcome everything."

Djokovic acknowledged all of the issues created strain for him. "It took an enormous amount of mental and emotional energy," Djokovic said, "to really keep it tight, keep my focus."

Keep in mind: It's not as though Tsitsipas played all that poorly, other than a rash of early miscues that seemed to be more



Novak Djokovic of Serbia kisses the Norman Brookes Challenge Cup after defeating Stefanos Tsitsipas of Greece in the men's singles final at the Australian Open tennis championship in Melbourne, Australia, Sunday, Jan. 29, 2023.

(AP Photo/Aaron Favila)

a product of tension than anything. It's that Djokovic was too unyielding. Too accurate with his strokes, making merely 22 unforced

errors, 20 fewer than his foe. Too speedy and flexible on the run (other than when, moving to his left, Djokovic took a tumble). □

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great selection of international wines to compliment your dish. Kids will enjoy every item of the specially compiled kids menu and there are also optional dishes for all vegans, vegetarians and gluten-free guests. To end the culinary voyage with some luscious sweetness, the desserts are wild. From a piece of coconut flan, NY cheese cake, carrot cake, chocolate brownie or our classic Tiramisu with kahlua and amaretto served with chocolate sauce and coffee jelly. Not to mention the fresh and light piece of key lime pie.

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Thank you to all our guests

From the bottom of our hearts, we would like to Thank all of our guests who showed us so much love and support all throughout the year, and hopefully will continue to do so in the years to come. What we are most grateful for is that we could get back to doing what we love, which is looking after our guests. So, thank you for every dinner, lunch, breakfast, every to-go order, every glass of wine, every birthday, anniversary and date-night that you spent with us this last year. To our new guests, Welcome! We hope you to see you back soon! ☐



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